GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
NATIONAL FORESTRY ACTION PROGRAMME
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend forest cover from existing 23 percent to 33 percent of nation`s total geographical areas under the National Forestry Action Programme;

(b) if so, the details of the plan prepared in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to double the allocation for afforestation under the plan outlays; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b),(c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House .

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.314 BY SHRI ANNASAHEB PATIL, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (LOK SABHA) REGARDING NATIONAL FORESTRY ACTION PROGRAMME FOR REPLY ON 19.3.2001

(a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment &Forests have formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next twenty years to address the issues underlying the major problems of the forestry sector in the country in line with the National Forest Policy, 1988. The objective of the NFAP is to bring 33 % of the geographical area of the country under forest/tree cover by the year 2020 and to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests. This would mean increasing the area under forest/tree cover from 76.5 million hectares to 109 million hectares of the country`s geographical area of 328 million hectares.

(b) The National Forestry Action Programme has five main components. They are:

1. Protect Existing Forest Resources: It has three main-sub programmes.
(i) forest protection,
(ii) soil and water conservation, and
(iii) protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

2. Improve Forest Productivity: It has four main sub-programmes.
(i) rehabilitation of degraded forests,
(ii) research and technology development,
(iii) development of Non-Wood Forest Products and
(iv) assisting private initiatives with community participation.

3. Reduce Total Demand: It has three main sub programmes for efficient use of
(i) fuelwood and fodder,
(ii) timber, and
(iii) Non-Wood Forest Products.

4. Strengthen Policy and Institutional Framework: It has three main sub programmes.
(i) Central forestry administration,
(ii) Central forestry institutions, and
(iii) State forestry administration and institutions.

5. Expand Forest Area: It has two main sub-programmes.
(i) tree plantation on forest and non-forest lands, and
(ii) people`s participation in plantations and their protection.

The implementation of National Forest Action Programmerequires huge financial resources and it is estimated that Rs.133903 crores would be required in the next twenty years to bring one third of the area of the country under forest/tree cover.

(c) & (d) A Working Group on Forestryhas already been constituted by the Government to look into various aspects of forestry for X Five Year Plan i.e. 2002-2007. In the meantime, at the Meeting ofthe Forest Ministers of States/Union Territoriesheld on 29-30 January, 2001 at Coimbatore, a resolution was passed known as `The Coimbatore Charter on Environment and Forests` and one of its major recommendations is that the investment in afforestation has been, on an average, less than one per cent of the total Plan outlay in various Plan periods and it shall be raised to a minimum of two per cent of the total outlay.